



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



donegal diaspora
pobal domhanda

Donegal ~ Irish Diaspora Conference

*1916....'she now seizes that moment.... supported by her exiled
children in America and by gallant allies in Europe'.....*

19th & 20th May 2016

Letterkenny Institute of Technology

SPEAKERS DETAILS

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Victoria Denoon, Co-Director of the Center of Irish Partnerships at UMass Lowell

Originally from Holywood, Co. Down, Victoria Denoon is currently the Co-Director of the Center for Irish Partnerships at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. The Center for Irish Partnership fosters collaborations and partnerships with educational institutions in Ireland and Northern Ireland across an interdisciplinary spectrum and embraces faculty exchange and joint research ventures and works with partners to create a dynamic model for Cross-Atlantic collaboration.

Victoria has been actively involved since 2010 in the Irish-American Heritage Archaeological Program, a collaborative project between UMass Lowell and Queen's University Belfast. Irish Archaeologists lead students from both universities on an excavation of artifacts in Lowell and Northern Ireland to better understand the lifestyles of the early Irish who immigrated to the U.S. in the 19th century.

In addition, Victoria is the Administrative and Special Projects Coordinator for the Office of Provost at the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Victoria is on the board of directors for Irish Network Boston (IN Boston). Since its inception in 2010, IN Boston has worked tirelessly to promote the enduring link between Ireland and the United States. Buoyed by unique events, member to member networking opportunities, partnerships and information sharing with local and national sister Irish organizations, IN Boston exemplifies a sincere commitment to engaging the Irish diaspora – including Irish born, Irish Americans and friends of Ireland.

In 2012, Victoria received an Irish Echo 40 Under 40 Award at a ceremony in New York City.

These awards spotlight up-and-coming leaders of Irish America from around the nation who work in a variety of fields and occupations. She is also the recipient of an Anam Cara Award from the Lowell Irish Cultural Committee.

Victoria has a Bachelor of Laws degree from Queen's University Belfast, a graduate certificate in Business and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from UMass Lowell.



Professor Emeritus Sir Tom Devine Kt OBE DLitt FSAScot FRSA FRHistS HonMRIA FRSE FBA The University of Edinburgh

In addition to his appointment at Edinburgh, Tom Devine has held professorial chairs at Aberdeen and Strathclyde (where he was also Vice Principal) universities as well as visiting professorships in Canada, France and the USA. His main focus of research has been the history of the Scottish people both at home and globally since c.1600 on which he has written or edited over three dozen books. Themes studied have ranged from rural society to urban elites, slavery to diaspora, sectarianism to empire and Irish-Scottish relations to nationalism, among several other topics. Devine's *magnum opus*, the 1700 page *The Scotland Trilogy*, was published by Penguin in three volumes in 2012.

He is the only historian to have been awarded Scotland's supreme academic accolade, the Royal Gold Medal, and is currently the only UK-based humanities scholar elected to all of the national academies in the British Isles for which he is eligible: Fellow of the Royal Society(Edinburgh) 1992; Fellow of the British Academy 1994 ; Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy 2001.

Tom Devine was knighted in 2014 by HM The Queen ' for services to the study of Scottish history'.

All of Sir Tom's four grandparents migrated to Scotland from Counties Cavan and Derry in the late nineteenth century.



Dr. Éamonn Ó Ciardha, Ulster University

Éamonn Ó Ciardha, a native of Scotshouse, County Monaghan, holds a BA in History and Irish from UCD, an MA from the NUI and a Ph.D from Cambridge University. He has published and edited books and articles on Jacobitism (2002),

the Flight of the Earls (2010), The Plantation of Ulster (2013), the politics of Identity in post-conflict states (2016) law and order and the use of Irish language sources for seventeenth and eighteenth-century Irish History. Formerly a research assistant at the University of Aberdeen, a researcher on the Royal Irish Academy's Dictionary of Irish Biography (Cambridge, 2009), and a visiting professor at St. Michael's College University of Toronto (2000), the Keough Institute for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame (2002-5) the University of the Saarland (2010-11) and the University of Vienna (2015-6), he is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Irish Language and Literature, Ulster University.



Professor Breandán Mac Suibhne, Centenary College, New Jersey

Dr. Breandán Mac Suibhne is a historian of society and culture in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Ireland. A graduate of University College Dublin and Carnegie Mellon, he is a professor of History in Centenary College, New Jersey. With David Dickson, Mac Suibhne edited Hugh Dorian's ***The Outer Edge of Ulster: A Memoir of Social Life in Nineteenth Century Donegal*** (2000, 2001).

Published with the support of Donegal County Council, this critically acclaimed book brought the most wide-ranging lower-class account of the Great Famine to public attention for the first time. He is also editor of ***Society and Manners in Early***

Nineteenth-Century Ireland (2011), an annotated compendium of the travel-writing of a hard-drinking Strabane doctor, John Gamble, which probes the spectral afterworld of failed revolution in the Ireland of the early 1800s. In 2005 Mac Suibhne was a founding editor, with critic Seamus Deane, of ***Field Day Review***, a journal of political and literary culture, and, with Enda Delaney, he is editor of ***The Great Famine and Popular Politics (2016)***. Oxford University Press is shortly to publish Mac Suibhne's ***The End of Outrage: The Politics of Post-Famine Adjustment***, which is a micro-history of land and violence, church and state in a small community in south-west Donegal. Mac Suibhne was recently awarded a fellowship by the United States National Endowment for the Humanities to research a book on what the Irish poor did to and for each other during the Famine. He will spend academic year 2016–17 in the National University of Ireland, Galway.



Kevin Cullen Boston Globe Columnist co-author of 'Whitey Bulger: America's Most Wanted Gangster' and co-author 'Betrayal: The Crisis in the Catholic Church'

Kevin Cullen is an author and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who has written for The Boston Globe since 1985. At the Globe, he served as a local, national and foreign correspondent before becoming a columnist.

He initially worked as the newspaper's law enforcement correspondent, and won the Livingston Award for his 1987 portrait of an East Boston hoodlum. He spent several stints on the Spotlight Team, the Globe's investigative unit, and was part of the team that first exposed the mobster James "Whitey" Bulger as an FBI informant in 1988.

He spent more than 20 years covering the conflict in Northern Ireland, and in 1994 was honored by the Overseas Press Club of America for interpretive reporting from Northern Ireland.

In 1997, he was appointed as Dublin bureau chief, covering the peace process in Northern Ireland full time, the only American journalist who did so. He was described by The Irish Times as "the most informed American journalist on Irish affairs," while the media critic at The

Independent of London called him "the most astute observer of Irish affairs in the American media."

After a year in Dublin, he moved to London to serve as chief European correspondent, covering war in the former Yugoslavia. He reported from more than 20 countries across Europe.

In 2001, after four years abroad, he returned to Boston and joined the Globe's investigative team which won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 2003 for exposing the coverup of sexual abuse of minors by Roman Catholic priests. The team also won many other awards for those exposes, including the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting, the George Polk Award for National Reporting, and the Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting.

In 2007, he was promoted to metro columnist and the following year won the Batten Medal from the American Society of Newspaper Editors for a selection of columns on people down on their luck. In 2010 and 2014, he was named best columnist by the National Headliners Awards. His columns highlighting the suicide of a 15-year-old girl who was bullied by schoolmates won the top award from the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma at Columbia University in 2011.

In 2013, the American Society of Newspaper Editors awarded him the Batten Medal again. He is the only person to win the award twice.

"In compact prose, Cullen tells powerful stories that move the heart and get results," the Batten Medal judges wrote. "He's not just a chronicler of the human condition, he's an advocate for those whose lives he touches."

In 2014, Cullen won the Mike Royko Award as best columnist chosen by the American Society of Newspaper Editors and was part of the team that was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news for coverage of the Boston Marathon bombings. Separately, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in commentary.

The ASNE judges said: "Kevin Cullen's work demonstrates a deft writing touch, a ferocious spirit and a no-holds-barred clarity that is by turns bracing and brilliant. His well-reported columns surrounding the Boston Marathon bombing were particularly noteworthy for their humanity and the way they captured the defiant spirit of a city simultaneously reeling from a devastating attack."

Cullen has been a frequent commentator on National Public Radio, the BBC, and RTE, Ireland's national broadcaster. His work appears regularly in The Irish Times and Sunday Independent in Ireland. He appears weekly on Newstalk radio's "Lunchtime" program in Ireland.

He is co-author of "Betrayal: The Crisis in the Catholic Church," and was a contributor to the book, "Britain and Ireland: Lives Entwined II." He is co-author of the New York Times bestseller, "Whitey Bulger: America's Most Wanted Gangster and the Manhunt That Brought Him to Justice," which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. He wrote the opening chapter for the Houghton Mifflin anthology, "Our Boston," to benefit victims of the Marathon bombings.

A Boston native, Cullen was graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, attended Trinity College in Dublin, and was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University.



Professor Paul Arthur, Ulster University

Paul Arthur is Visiting Distinguished Professor in Peace Studies at Chapman University, California and Honorary Professor at Ulster University. He holds a BA and MSc from Queen's University Belfast and a D.Litt. from the National University of Ireland. He is the author of five books – including *Special Relationships: Britain, Ireland and the Northern Ireland problem* (2001) – and circa seventy peer-reviewed articles. He has extensive media experience in Ireland, Britain and the United States including two years as an op-ed writer for the Irish Times. He has lectured extensively in Europe and the United States. In 1997-98 he held a Senior Fellowship at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington DC where his research was in Track Two Diplomacy. He was the Jefferson Smurfit Distinguished Fellow in Irish Studies at the University of Missouri (2000). For six months in 2007 he was a Fulbright scholar at Stanford University, and the Joan B. Kroc Peace Scholar at the University of San Diego in 2010. He has acted in a consultancy capacity for the United Nations Research Institute in Social Development (UNRISD) on political violence; the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee at the House of Commons on an enquiry on "Dealing

With The Past"; and with the World Bank for the World Development Report (2010). He sits on a number of International Advisory Boards including the "Beyond Conflict" in Cambridge, Mass. and the Board of the Edward Moore Kennedy Conflict Intervention Centre at NUIM. He has been involved in a series of problem-solving workshops in Colombia, Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Macedonia, Israel and Palestine. Since 1990 he has participated in many Track Two initiatives with Northern Ireland's political parties in Europe, the United States and South Africa.



Michael Patrick MacDonald Author in Residence at Northeastern University Honors Dept, author of NY Times bestseller, *All Souls: A Family Story from Southie*

Michael Patrick MacDonald is the author of the New York Times Bestselling memoir, *All Souls: A Family Story From Southie* and the acclaimed *Easter Rising: A Memoir of Roots and Rebellion*. These two books are often "First Year Experience" selections at colleges and universities throughout the U.S., for which MacDonald gives campus lectures. He has been awarded an American Book Award, A New England Literary Lights Award, and a fellowship at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Study Centre. MacDonald has written a number of essays and short stories, including *The Resurrection of Cornelius Larkin: An Immigrant's Tale*, written for the Droplick Murphys' theme album "Going Out in Style." He has been a regular contributor to The Boston Globe's Op Ed page and a Senior Contributing Editor for the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University.

MacDonald grew up in the Old Colony Housing Project in South Boston, a neighbourhood that held the highest concentration of white poverty in the United States. After losing four of his eleven siblings and seeing his generation decimated by poverty, crime, addiction, and incarceration, he learned to transform personal and community trauma by becoming a leading Boston activist, organizer and writer. MacDonald has focused his community efforts on diverse and inclusive coalition building to reduce violence and promote grassroots leadership from our most impacted communities and families. He has developed

Gun Buyback programs and local support groups which promote the voices of adult and youth survivors of poverty, violence and drug trade. MacDonald is on many local and national boards, including the Children's Defense Fund's *Beat The Odds* Essay Selection Committee, Crittenton Women's Union National Advisory Committee and Families First of Greater Boston Advisory Board.

MacDonald serves as Author-in-Residence at Northeastern University's Honors Department, where he teaches his curricula: "Non-Fiction Writing & Social Justice Issues" and "The North of Ireland: Colonialism, Conflict and the Struggle for Peace with Justice" every fall. He has been a Visiting Professor at California State University in Northridge CA, and at The University of Mannheim in Germany. He was appointed *Distinguished Writer in Residence* at UMass Boston Honors College in the Spring of 2015, and has accepted the position of Senior Fellow at the Center for Peace, Democracy and Development at the McCormack Institute for Social Policy and Global Studies.

MacDonald is currently developing his memoir, *All Souls*, as a TV series and is working on his third book, which will use narrative non-fiction storytelling to reveal issues of generational trauma in our local communities. In addition, he has developed a community based writing and healing curriculum which has been implemented with the Crittenton Women's Union in Boston to help women who are transitioning out of poverty find their voices on the page and in the world. This year he has taken his transformational storytelling curriculum to Boston survivors of homicide victims at The Louis D Brown Peace Institute, where he is also currently Writer in Residence.



Dr. Frank T. Talty, PhD, Lecturer and Assistant Dean at the University of Massachusetts Lowell

Frank Talty is Assistant Dean in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, at the University of Massachusetts Lowell

Frank has his BA in Political Science from U Mass Lowell, an MA in Public Administration and a Law degree from Suffolk University and his PhD in Law, Policy and Society from Northeastern University in Boston.

Prior to his appointment as Assistant Dean, Dr. Talty taught American Courts and Judicial Process, Law and the Legal System, Public Policy and Administration and Irish Politics. For his teaching, Frank was voted the Exceeding Excellence Award by the students in the College of Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. He helped U Mass Lowell develop its successful First Year Student program, its new BA and MA programs in Peace and Conflict Studies, a new Masters in Public Administration (which will begin in 2017) and is campus liaison to the Washington Center a nationally recognized internship program providing U Mass Lowell students with full semester experiences in Washington DC. Dr. Talty led a student group of interns at the 2008 Democratic National Nominating Convention in Denver and at the 2012 Republican National Convention in Tampa as part of the Washington Center programming.

Professor Talty comments regularly on national politics, and has been quoted in such print publications as Congressional Quarterly, Politico, the LA Times, the Boston Globe, and the Boston Herald, and in various radio and television news.

Frank is Co-Director of the **UMass Lowell Center for Public Opinion**. The Center conducts polls on Massachusetts elections and important public issues. Forums and debates are also held by the Center. The nationally broadcast 2012 US Senate debate between Scott Brown and Elizabeth Warren was sponsored in part by the Center.

Frank is also Co-Director of the U Mass Lowell **Center for Irish Partnerships**. Frank led a delegation of University faculty to Belfast in

November of 2008 that culminated in a Memorandum of Agreement between Queen's University and U Mass Lowell to collaborate on research, teaching and student experiences. The following March, Frank accompanied a U Mass Lowell delegation headed by Chancellor Marty Meehan for signing of the Agreement. In addition, U Mass Lowell has signed collaborative agreements with Dublin City University, University College Cork, the University of Limerick, and developed joint programs with St. Mary's University College on the Falls Road in West Belfast, St. Patrick's College in Dublin, the National University of Ireland at Galway, and of course, Letterkenny Institute of Technology. A number of Lowell students have studied in Ireland and Lowell has hosted many Irish faculty and students since 2009..

Frank was the US side Project Director for the Irish-American Heritage Archaeological Program with Queen's University Belfast, in which U Mass Lowell and Queen's students led by Irish Archaeologists excavated and interpreted artifacts in Lowell and Northern Ireland to better understand the lifestyles of the early Irish who immigrated to the US in the 19 century.

In 2012, Frank was named one of the top 100 Irish-American Educators in the U.S.

Frank is **Pre-law** advisor for the Lowell campus guiding students interested in careers in the law. Having practiced law in Massachusetts and New Hampshire for over 20 years before coming to the University, his legal experience was primarily in civil litigation. Attorney Talty argued cases before the Supreme Courts of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. He is co-author of *Massachusetts Practice, Methods of Practice*, a three volume set on 17 areas of the law published by Thomson West. At U Mass Lowell, he founded and coaches the U Mass Lowell Mock Trial Team which competes in the annual American Mock Trial Competition and is faculty advisor to the Pre-law Society, an extra-curricular student organization.